

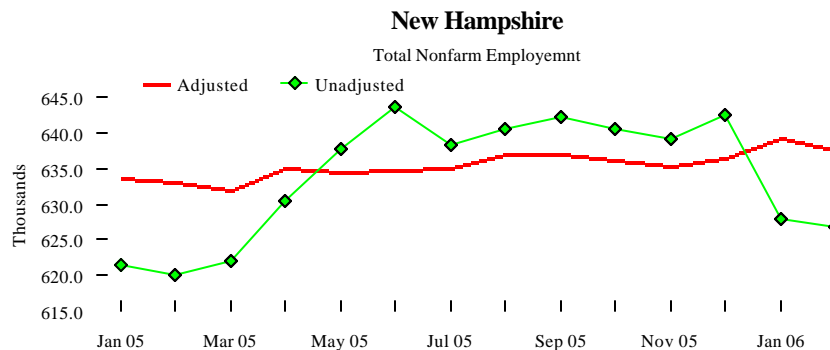
MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT DATA
New Hampshire, February 2006
B G McKay

Seasonally Adjusted:

Preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for February showed that New Hampshire's total nonfarm employment fell by 1,600 jobs. With this decline, the state's total employment remains 4,500 jobs above the level of one year ago.

Trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40), with its 1,600-job drop, provided the primary force in the movement of February's employment trend line in this category. Manufacturing (supersector 30) and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) each contributed 500 jobs to the decline. Government (supersector 90) dropped 200 jobs, and other services (supersector 80) completed February's job loss with a 100-job reduction.

Educational and health services (supersector 65) stemmed the downward tide with a 500-job addition. Joining the supersector 65 effort, financial activities (supersector 55) and professional and business services (supersector 60) each increased their work force by 300 jobs. Construction (supersector 20) and information (supersector 50) rounded the month's activity by each expanding by 100 jobs.



Unadjusted:

New Hampshire employment, still in the throws of coming down from the peak season, declined by 1,000 jobs in February's unadjusted estimates.

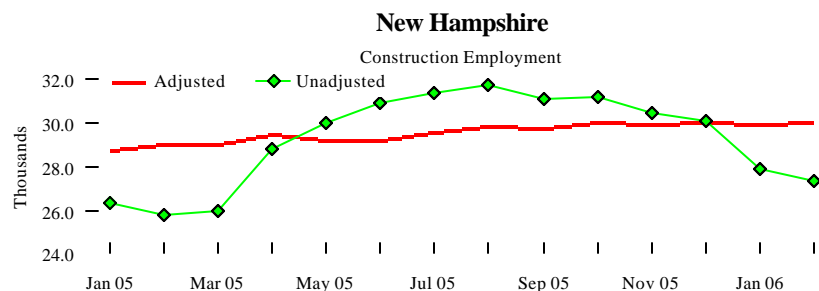
With a 3,500-job reduction, trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) proved to be the major stimulus behind February's employment shift. Both construction (supersector 20) and manufacturing (supersector 30) reduced their personnel strength by 600. Wrapping up the negative numbers, leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) cut staff by 500.

February's unadjusted trend line held steady at the January level for natural resources and mining (supersector 10), information (supersector 50), and other services (supersector 80).

The university system, returning from its holiday break, pushed government (supersector 90) employment totals up by 3,100 jobs. Educational and health services (supersector 80), experiencing similar phenomenon, added 800 jobs to the state's total. Professional and business services (supersector 65) added 200 jobs, and financial activity (supersector 55) completed February employment activity with a 100-job addition.

CONSTRUCTION

A 600-job reduction by specialty trade contractors (subsector 238) matched the total job loss in construction (supersector 20).



The sample indicated that job losses in heavy and civil engineering construction (subsector 237) offset the 100 jobs added by the construction of building contractors (subsector 236).

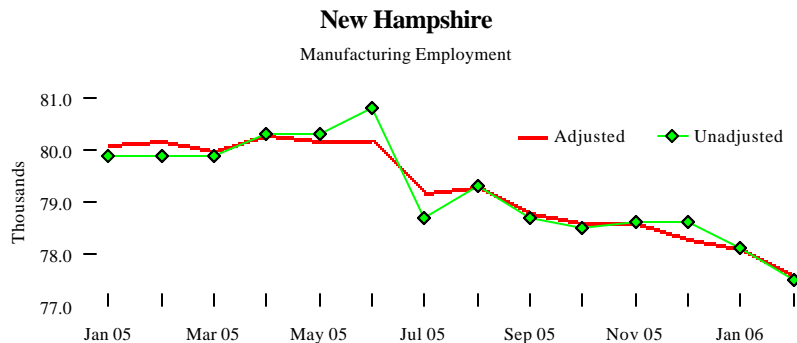
MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing's (supersector 30) 600-job loss split evenly between durable goods and nondurable goods manufacturing. Each dropped 300 jobs in February's preliminary unadjusted estimates.

Published estimates for durable goods manufacturing showed that a 100-job drop in semiconductor and other electronic component manufacturing (industry group 3344) rippled up through computer and electronic product manufacturing (subsector 334).

All other published industries in durable goods manufacturing sustained employment totals at the previous month's level.

Food manufacturing and beverage and tobacco product manufacturing (a combination of subsectors 311 and 312) posted a 100-job loss, which accounted for one-third of nondurable goods manufacturing employment reduction in February. Paper manufacturing (subsector 322) held its employment total at the revised January level.



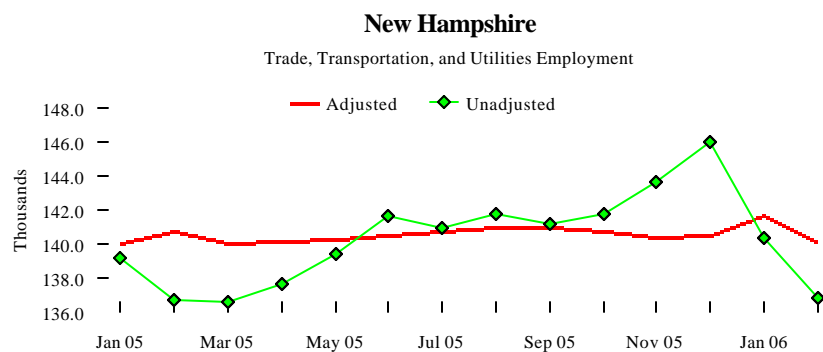
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES

Retail trade covered 3,200 of the 3,500 fewer jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) in February. Wholesale trade trimmed 200 jobs, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities reduced its ranks by 100.

February's sample for wholesale trade did not point to single elements as being responsible for the 200-job reduction. The job loss seemed to be the result of minor shifts throughout the group. The two published industries under wholesale trade showed that wholesale electronic markets and agents and brokers (subsector 425) added 100 workers to the rolls in February, as employment totals for merchant wholesalers, durable goods (subsector 423) remained unchanged in over-the-month activity.

Within retail trade, all published industries recorded job losses to contribute to the group's overall 3,200-job decline in February's preliminary unadjusted estimates. Clothing and clothing accessory stores, and general merchandise stores (a combination of subsectors 448 and 452) pared its force by 600 jobs.

Department stores (industry group 4521) accounted for 500 of those jobs. Food and beverage stores also reduced staffing by 600 positions. Electronic shopping and mail-order houses (industry group 4541) downsized by 300 jobs after the holiday rush, and health and personal care stores (subsector 446) employed 100 fewer people in February.

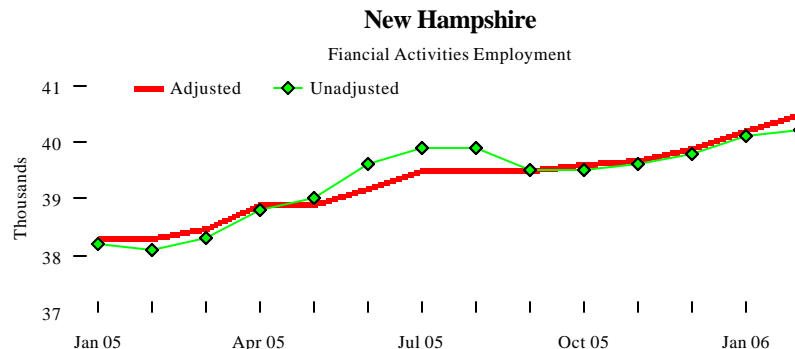


Employment in utilities firms held constant at the January level, as elements in transportation and warehousing accounted for the February 100-job decline. The sample pointed to specialized freight trucking (industry group 4842) having a seasonal downturn.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Financial activities (supersector 55) increased its manpower by 100 positions in the February estimates. That 100-job increase could be traced to finance and insurance (sector 52), as employment totals for all other elements of this supersector maintained the total number of jobs at the previous month's level.

In looking at emerging trends, financial activities have provided the state with substantial increases in employment levels in recent times. That level sits 2,100 jobs higher than the one year ago total.

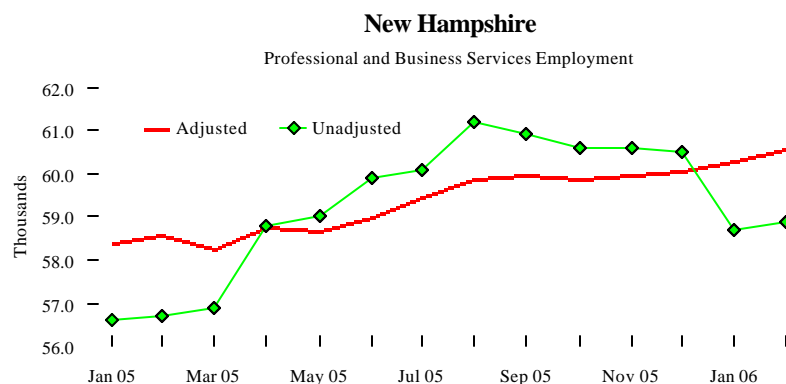


PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Professional and business services (supersector 60) added 200 jobs to New Hampshire's economy in February.

In addition to the 100-job increase in professional, scientific, and technical services (sector 54), employment services (industry group 5613) expanded its force by 100 jobs. This expansion passed through to administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (sector 56).

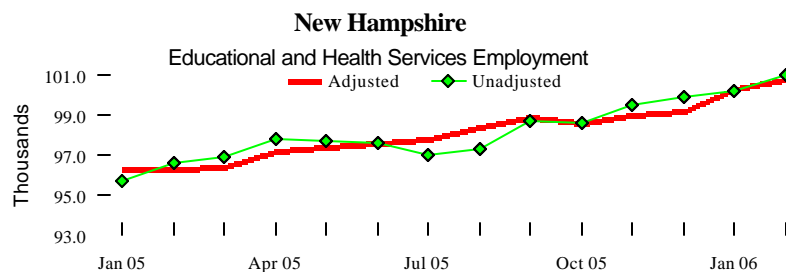
Management of companies and enterprises (sector 55) did not alter its total employment in February estimates.



EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Educational and health services (supersector 65) bumped the unadjusted trend line up by 800 notches in February preliminary estimates.

As the work-study students returned from their holiday break, employment in colleges, universities, and professional schools (industry group 6113) grew by 900 jobs. The sample showed that some specialized schools (technical, trade, driving, etc.) had completed the course of instruction and reduced staff. This served to lessen the overall employment gains in educational services (sector 61) to 600 jobs during the month.



Health care and social services (sector 62) recorded a 200-job gain in February's estimates. On the surface, nursing care facilities (industry group 6231) with its 200-job increase appeared to have carried the month for sector 62. Employment in hospitals (subsector 622) stayed at the level established by the January estimates, and providers in ambulatory health care services (subsector 621) cut back staffing by 100 positions.

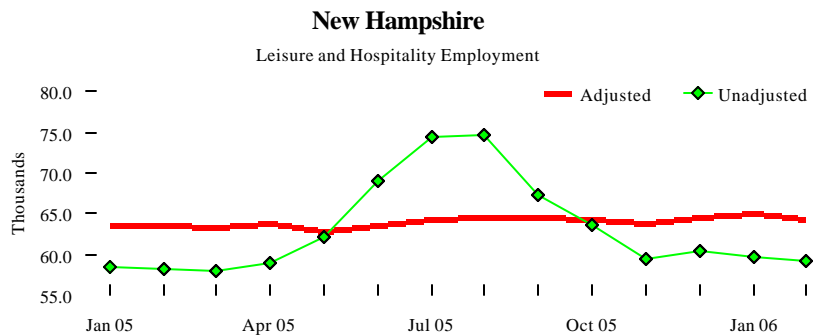
Employment reductions by vocational rehabilitation services (industry group 6243) sample members exerted downward pressure on February estimate.

LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

The unadjusted employment trend line dipped by 500 notches for leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) in February's estimates. Arts, entertainment, and recreation (sector 71) dropped 600 jobs, while accommodation and food services (sector 72) increased its crew size by 100.

A variety of functions from performing arts, spectator sports, and related industries (subsector 711) provided the impetus for the February employment in sector 71.

Turning to sector 72, the 100-job increase in February's estimates could be traced to food services and drinking places (subsector 722), as employers in accommodations (subsector 721) sustained the previous month's total number of workers. The two published under subsector 722 did not register a change in the number of persons on the job for February.



GOVERNMENT

Government (supersector 90) added 3,100 jobs to the state's economy according to February's preliminary estimates.

State government employment rebounded by 2,500 jobs, as the university system returned from its holiday break.

Educational services at the local government level drove the 600-job increase for this echelon in February.

